

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend paragraphs 027, 032, 048, and 052 in the Specification as follows:

[027] By way of a non-limiting example, Figure 1 illustrates a computer system in which the features and principles of the present invention may be implemented. As illustrated in the block diagram of Figure 1, a system environment consistent with an embodiment of the present invention may include an input module 110, an output module 120, a computing platform 130, and a database or file system 140. Computing platform 130 is adapted to include the necessary functionality and computing capabilities to implement the automated target ~~select~~ selection and platform generation methodology through the associated components (input module 110, output module 120, and database or file system 140).

[032] In methods consistent with the present invention, a first step in generating platforms for a set of drilling targets may be to derive a set of possible locations. One method consistent with the invention may use three methods to arrive at the possible target locations. A first method may be to use the actual X and Y coordinates of each target developed using the methodology of an automatic target selection method described in U.S. Patent Application No. ~~09/622,976~~ 10/622,976, filed on July 18, 2003, which is herein incorporated by reference, as the potential surface locations. However, it is important to note that the exemplary automatic target selection method of U.S. Patent Application No. ~~09/622,976~~ 10/622,976 may compliment, but is not required by, the exemplary automated platform selection method consistent with the present invention.

[048] Figures 8-10 are flowcharts illustrating the exemplary methods for selecting targets and optimizing platform generation consistent with the present invention. Method 800 starts (Stage 802) and proceeds to Stage 804. In Stage 804, the user selects the method for selecting one or more possible target locations. If the user selects the targets generated with the automated target selection method described in U.S. Patent Application No. ~~09/622,976~~ 10/622,976, the actual X and Y coordinates of each target selected may be used as the potential surface locations for the platforms. (Stage 806) It is important to note that the exemplary automatic target selection method of U.S. Patent Application No. ~~09/622,976~~ 10/622,976 may compliment, but is not required by, the exemplary automated platform generation method of this embodiment of the present invention.

[055] If at Stage 826 (refer to Figure 8), the user did not select the targets, method 800 proceeds to generate a grid of evenly spaced platform locations (Stage 838) and execute the stages in Figure 9 described above in connection with the use of the targets selected using the automated target selection method disclosed in U.S. Patent Application No. ~~09/622,976~~ 10/622,976.